

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 /058 W

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R 230828Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4329

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5614

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, RP/CH

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE CONCERN FOR CHINESE SUBVERSION

REF: 75MANILA 17036

BEGIN SUMMARY: GOP HAS RECENTLY EXPRESSED FEAR ABOUT POSSIBLE SUBVERSION WITHIN ETHNIC CHINESE COMMUNITY. WITH THIS IN MIND, GENERAL VER SPECIFICALLY WARNED "PRO TAIWAN" AND "PRO PEKING" ELEMENTS TO STOP SQUABBLING AND GET ON WITH PROCESS OF ASSIMILATION. AT SAME TIME, ACCORDING INFORMATION SECRETARY TATAD, GOP IS STUDYING POSSIBLE MEASURES AGAINST IMPORTATION OF CHINESE PROPAGANDA. NEW PRC EMBASSY HAS, IN FACT, STAYED OUT OF COMMUNITY POLITICS TO DATE, EXCEPT FOR SOME ROUTINE ANTI-KMT POLEMICS, AND CONCENTRATED ON BUILDING GOOD RELATIONS WITH GOP IN ANTICIPATION OF SOVIET ARRIVAL. GOP IS AWARE OF THIS AND, DESPITE  
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RECENT RIPPLES OF CONCERN, NOT UPTIGHT ABOUT PRC PRESENCE.

END SUMMARY.

1. DURING PAST WEEK ELEMENTS IN GOP HAVE REGISTERED SOME CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF SUBVERSIVE THREAT FROM ETHNIC CHINESE COMMUNITY.

2. IN APRIL 21 ADDRESS BEFORE FEDERATION OF FILIPINO-CHINESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (FFCC) INTELLIGENCE CHIEF GEN FABIAN VER WARNED THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN "PRO PEKING" AND "PRO TAIWAN" ELEMENTS IN CHINESE COMMUNITY COULD ENDANGER COUNTRY'S SECURITY. VER URGED CHINESE TO PATCH UP IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES AND URGED MORE RAPID ASSIMILATION TO FILIPINO SOCIETY. (ON SAME DAY, GOP ANNOUNCED NATURALIZATION BY DECREE OF 4,136 MORE FOREIGN NATIONALS, MOSTLY CHINESE, UNDER LIBERALIZED PROCEDURES WHICH WERE ADOPTED LAST JUNE AS PRELUDE TO PHILIPPINE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CHINA. TOTAL OF 6,938 HAVE THUS FAR BEEN NATURALIZED BY DECREE OUT OF 19,000 APPLICANTS.)

3. ON PREVIOUS DAY, CHINESE-ENGLISH DAILY ORIENT NEWS (EDITED BY MRS. MARCOS' FRIEND AND BIOGRAPHER KERIMA POLOTAN) CARRIED EDITORIAL BLANDLY DENYING THAT IT HAS EVER TAKEN SIDES IN ACRID MONTHS-OLD DISPUTE BETWEEN "PRO PEKING" AND "PRO TAIWAN" WLEMENTS IN FFCCC. (IN FACT, ORIENT NEWS HAS, UNTIL RECENTLY, GIVEN VOCIFEROUS SUPPORT TO "PRO PEKING" FACTION.)

4. MEANWHILE INFORMATION SECRETARY TATAD INFORMED EMBOFF THAT GOP HAS RECENTLY IMPLEMENTED TEMPORARY BAN ON IMPORTATION OF "CHINESE" PROPAGANDA. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IT CONTINUES TO ENTER COUNTRY VIA DIPLOMATIC POUCH. HE SAID THAT DFA IS STUDYING FURTHER MEASURES AND PLANNING TO SEND NOTE TO ALL EMBASSIES CONCERNING PUBLICATIONS (BUT THAT THIS WILL BE AIMRED PRIMARILY AT PRC).

5. COMMENT: VER'S SPEECH IS HIGHEST LEVEL EXPRESSION OF CONCERN TO DATE REGARDING POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF IN-FIGHTING IN CHINESE COMMUNITY. IN FACT FFCCC  
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SQUABBLE IS LESS IDEOLOGICAL IN NATURE THAN IT IS A FACTION FIGHT BETWEEN "IN" AND "OUT" GROUPS WITHIN ORGANIZATION WHICH FOR YEARS, UNDER KMT AEGIS, RAN THE PHILIPPINE-CHINESE COMMUNITY. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT GOP HAS NEVERTHELESS BEEN CONCERNED THAT THIS NOISY IMBROGLIO MIGHT GIVE NEW PRC EMBASSY A CHANCE TO FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS. THUS FAR, HOWEVER, PKEING ENVOYS HAVE STAYED CLEAR OF COMMUNITY MEDDLING EXCEPT FOR

ROUTINE ANTI-KMT REMAKRS IN A FEW QUASI-PUBLIC SPEECHES. INSTEAD THEY HAVE CONCENTRATED ON BUILDING WARM RELATIONSHIP WITH GOP TO BE IN STRONGEST POSSIBLE POSITION WHEN SOVIETS ARRIVE.

6. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, TATAD'S REMARKS RE PROPAGANDA ARE SOMEWHAT INEXPLICABLE. IN FACT MOST PRC (AND TAIWANESE) PROPAGANDA ARRIVES VIA COMMERCIAL CHANNELS. PRC MATERIAL ALREADY DID SO IN QUANTITY WELL BEFORE NORMALIZATION. WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE OF RECENT GOVERNMENT ATTEMPT TO IMPLEMENT ANY BAN, AS CLAIMED BY TATAD. ON THE CONTRARY, PRO-PRC (FILIPINO-CHINESE AMITY CLUB CONTINUES THROUGH A FRONT GROUP) TO ADVERTISE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR PRC PUBLICATIONS IN MANILA AND THE PROVINCES. ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT ORIENT NEWS CONTINUES TO PUBLISH LARGE VOLUME OF NCNA IN CHINESE LANGUAGE NEW COLUMNS. WE DOUBT THAT SIGNIFICANT VOLUME OF PRC PROPAGANDA ENTERS COUNTRY BY POUCH. ONE REASON FOR TATAD'S CONCERN MAY BE THAT HIS DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION LACKS CHINESE LANGUAGE CAPABILITY AND DEPENDS ON THE PRO-PRC AMITY CLUB (WHICH HAS HIGH-LEVEL SUPPORT ELSEWHERE IN GOP) TO VET INCOMING CHINESE MATERIALS FOR SUBVERSIVE CONTENT.

7. DESPITE THESE RIPPLES OF CONCERN, PRC DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN MANILA HAS, TO DATE, CREATED VERY FEW PROBLEMS FOR GOP (WHICH REMAINS CONVINCED THAT SOVIETS WILL BE MUCH HARDER TO HANDLE).

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